

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 10039 01 OF 02 291546Z

42

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 HEW-08 SCI-06 AID-20 IGA-02 COA-02

AEC-11 ACDA-19 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 DRC-01

SMI-01 /198 W

----- 027677

R 291145Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2946

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 10039

GENEVA FOR USUN FROM AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN TO AMBASSADOR DALE.
DEPARTMENT PASS TO HEW AND SMI.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN PRESS ARTICLES ON WHO BIOGENETIC MOSQUITO
CONTROL PROJECT AND MIGRATORY BIRD PROJECT

REF: NEW DELHI'S 10030

1. COMPLETE PRESS ARTICLE ON SUBJECT FROM JULY 29 MOTHERLAND
FOLLOWS:

2. "WHO WORKS FOR U.S. SECRET RESEARCH IN INDIA: SECTIONS
OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY IN INDIA ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED AT SOME
RESEARCH PROJECTS BEING CARRIED OUT IN THIS COUNTRY BY OR UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO) UNDER CONDITIONS
OF TOTAL SECRECY, WRITES PTI SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT,

"THEY ARE PERPLEXED BY THE HUSH-HUSH ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDNG
THE EXPERIMENTS, THE FACT THAT ALL THESE PROJECTS ARE BEING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 10039 01 OF 02 291546Z

FINANCED BY AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THAT THE U.S. ARMY

APPEARS TO BE A RECIPIENT OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS.

"ONE EASY EXPLANATION FOR THE FINANCING ASPECT, SUGGESTED BY SOME, IS THAT U.S. AGENCIES AND PARTICULARLY DEFENCE SERVICES WERE ABLE TO UTILISE AND SPEND RUPEE FUNDS WITH THE U.S. EMBASSY OR AUTHORITIES GENERATED BY PL-480 OPERATIONS.

"THERE MAY BE EXPLANATIONS FOR OTHER QUERIES TOO, BUT ATTEMPTS TO GET INFORMATION ON THE EXPERIMENTS AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED BY CRITICS HAVE PROVED UNAVAILING. NONE OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED-WHO, INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (ICMR) OR THE UNION HEALTH MINISTRY ITSELF--IS WILLING TO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

"THE WHO EXPERIMENTS ARE BEING CONDUCTED OR HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AT THE GENETIC CONTROL OF MOSQUITO UNIT (GCMU) IN NEW DELHI, BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (BNHS) AND THE MALARIA ERADICATION STATION IN JODHPUR. "GCMU FIRST CAME UNDER PUBLIC GAZE TWOYEARS AGO WHEN IT WAS REVEALED THAT IT WAS POLLUTING VILAGE WELLS WITH CHEMICALS SUSPECTED TO BE CANCER-CAUSING AND PROHIBITED IN THE UNITED STATES.

"SINCE THEN SECRECY HAS BECOME TIGHTER ON THE ENTIRE PROJECT. "DR. RAJENDRA PAL WHO RUNS THE GCMU PROJECT FROM HIS WHO OFFICE IN GENEVA REFUSED INFORMATION ON THE PLEA THAT THE UNIT'S ACTIVITIES 'ARE SENSITIVE TO THE INDIAN PRESS'.

"DR. PAL WHO WAS ON A VISIT TO INDIA LAST MAY, SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL HIMSELF NOT TO TALK TO THE PRESS.

"DR. C. GOPALAN, ICMR DIRECTOR-GENERAL, ASKED THE CORRESPONDENT TO BE 'SYMPATHETIC' TO THE WHO-ICMR MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT AND EXPLAINED THAT PRESS STATEMENT WOULD 'EMBARASS' THE WHO.

"OTHER SENIOR HEALTH MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENTS OR INFORMATION ON WHO RESEARCH PROJECTS UNDER THEIR MINISTRY.

"THE WHO EXPERIMENTS WHICH EMPLOY HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND ULTRA NEW SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTS, APPEAR TO BE PLAIN INVESTIGATIONS ON MOSQUITO CONTROL, BIRD MIGRATION AND THE LIKE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 10039 01 OF 02 291546Z

"BUT THE SAME EXPERIMENT ALSO PROVIDE DATA ON THE AVAILABILITY BEHAVIOUR AND PECULIARITIES OF DISEASE-CARRIERS IN INDIA.

"SOME EXPERTS HERE BELIEVE THAT THESE DATA MAY BE USEFUL IN A BIOLOGICAL OR GERM WARFARE.

"IT APPEARS THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THE WHO EXPERIMENTS (BIRD MIGRATION STUDY WITH BNHS) WAS SPONSORED BY THE MIGRATORY ANIMAL PATHOLOGICAL SERVICE).MAPS) OF THE UNITED STATES WHICH IN SIMPLER

LANGUAGE IS BIOLOGICAL WARFARE RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

"SOME MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY ASK WHETHER THE HUSH-HUSH ATMOSPHERE AND THE NATURE OF DATA COLLECTED IN VARIOUS PROJECTS OF DOUBTFUL RELEVANCE TO INDIA SUGGEST THAT INDIA IS BEING USED AS A GUINEA PIG OR TESTING GROUND FOR CHEMICALS OR METHODS NOT PERMITTED IN SPONSORING COUNTRIES OR EVEN FOR SOME COVERT OPERATIONS.

"IT MAY BE POINTED OUT THAT THE US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESSIONAL (SIC) HEARINGS THAT IT SPENT DOLS21.6 MILLION OVER A SEVEN-YEAR PROJECT ON WEATHER WARFARE RESEARCH IN VIETNAM BEFORE RESORT TO THIS WARFARE IN THE ACTUAL OPERATION DURING 1968-69.

"IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT THE U.S. USED LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AS GUINEA PIGS FOR TESTING THE EFFECTS OF ' DEFOLIANTS' BEFORE DEPLOYING THEM IN VIETNAM.

"WHO HAS NOT ONLY BLACKED OUT NEWS ON ITS CURRENT RESEARCH ACTIVITIS IN INDIA BUT ALSO WOULD NOT MAKE AVAILABLE REPORTS OF EARLIER PROJECTS. B

"U.S. PROJECT: FOR INSTANCE, REQUEST FOR A COPY OF THE REPORT OF A WHO SPONSORED CONFERENCE IN BOMBAY IN 1969 ON THE GLOBAL IMPACTS OF APPLIED MICRO-BIOLOGY PRODUCED NO RESULT.

"APART FROM THE WHO, THE JOHN (SIC) HOPKINS MEDICAL CENTER OF THE U.S. HAD SET UP SOME PROJECTS IN CALCUTTA AND NARANGWAL IN THE PUNJAB FOR SEVERAL YEARS. WHAT STUDIES WERE CARRIED OUT IN INDIA BY JOHN HOPKINS ARE NOT KNOWN BECAUSE NO HEALTH OFFICIAL IS WILLING TO TALK.

"THE WHO HAS BEEN USING BNHS FOR STUDIES ON HOW VIRUSES ARE CARRIED AND ININTRODUCED INTO INDIA BY MIGRATORY BIRDS.

"THAT THIS STUDY WAS FINANCED BY MAPS OF THE US ARMY IS SUGGESTED BY THE FACT THAT THE WHO SENT FOUR COPIES OF THE SECRET REPORT (WHO/PA/68.59) ON 'DISSEMINATION OF ARBOVIRUSES THROUGH MIGRA UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 NEW DE 10039 01 OF 02 291546Z

TORY BIRDS' DIRECTLY TO DR. ELLIOT H. MELURE OF MAPS FAR-EASTERN OFFICE IN BANGKOK.

"IT IS NOT KNOWN WHY THE REPORT WAS SENT TO MAPS OF THE US ARMY. BUT HERE, SAID 'THE REPORT IS NOT AVAILABLE WITH WHO.'.

"QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE U.S. MILITARY IN THIS PROJECT WAS (SIC) ALSO RAISED IN THE RAJYA SABHA IN THE LAST SESSION BY PROF. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY OF THE JANA SANGH WHO SAID THE US ARMY HAD GIVEN BNHS A GRANT TO STUDY BIRD MIGRATION IN NORTH-EASTERN INDIA.

"THE US ARMY CONTRACT (DA/CRD/AFE/392/544/69/6 G137), ACCORDING TO PROF. SWAMY, SPECIFIED THAT 'TWO ADVANCE COPIES OF THE WORK' SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MAPS.MOYNIHAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 10039 02 OF 02 291540Z

42

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 HEW-08 SCI-06 AID-20 IGA-02 COA-02

AEC-11 ACDA-19 AGR-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-03 DRC-01

SMI-01 /198 W

----- 027613

R 291145Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2947

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 NEW DELHI 10039

GENEVA FOR USUN FROM AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN TO AMBASSADOR DALE.
DEPARTMENT PASS TO HEW AND SMI.

"ICMR'S VIRUS RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN POONA HAD UNTIL 1970
RECEIVED SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS AND 'EXPERTS' FROM SMITHSONIAN INSTITU
TION AND ROCKFELLER FOUNDATION OF THE US FOR BIRD MIGRATION STUDIE
(IN COLLABORATION WITH BNHS) AND FOR THE STUDY OF IMMUNE STATUS OF
MAN AND ANIMALS IN NEFA. "DESEASE VIRUS: ALTHOUGH THE WHO WAS
(SIC) REFUSED TO DIVULGE ITS FINDINGS ON MIGRATORY BIRDS AND
VIRUSES, A RUSSIAN VIROLOGIST DR. G I NETZKY HAS CONFIRMED THE
ARRIVAL OF VIRUS INFESTED BIRDS INTO INDIA AND HAS SAID THAT
'MIGRANT BIRDS CAN SPREAD COMPLEX VIRUSES THROUGHOUT INDIA'.
"ACCORDING TO WHO'S OWN JOURNAL (WORLD HEALTH, JUNE 1963), THE
KYASANOOR FOREST DIEASE VIRUS THAT MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARED IN KARNATKA
IN 1958 COULD HAVE COME FROM MIGRANT BIRDS.
"GCMU, SET UP IN 1969, IS ENTIRELY FINANCED BY THE US PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICE WHICH HAS SO FAR PUMPED-THOUGH WHO-ABOUT RS. 30 MILLION IN
EXEXPERIMENTS THAT APPEAR TO HAVE NO RELEVANCE TO MALARIA AND
FILARIASIS, TWO MAJOR MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASES IN INDIA.
"INSTEAD, GCMU IS COLLECTING ECOLOGICAL, BEHAVIOURAL AND DISPERSAL
DATA ON AEDES AEGYPTI, A MOSQUITO SPECIES THAT TRANSMITS YELLOW

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 10039 02 OF 02 291540Z

FEVER.

"DR. RAJENDRA PAL SAID THAT GCMU WILL LAUNCH A BIG EXPERIMENT EARLY NEXT YEAR IN SONEPAT (NEAR DELHI) TO CONTROL AEDES AEGYPTI BY GENETIC METHOD.

"THE WHO MOTIVE FOR THIS MOST EXPENSIVE PROJECT IS NOT KNOWN BECAUSE THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SINGLE CASE OF YELLOW FEVER IN INDIA FOR AGES. "AEDES AEGYPTI ALSO SPREAD DENGUE FEVER BUT THIS IS NOT AS SERIOUS A HEALTH PROBLEM AS MALARIA OR FILARIASIS.

"YELLOW FEVER: DR. GOPALAN REFUSED TO SAY WHY ICMR IS BACKING THE WHO STUDY OF 'AEDES AEGYPTI' WHEN GCMU'S PRIORITIES OUGHT TO BE ANOPHOLES STEPHENSI (MALARIA CARRIER) AND CULEX FATIGANS (FILARIA CARRIER).

"MALARIA HAS COME BACK TO INDIA AND FILARIASIS IS ENDEMIC IN AN AREA OCCUPIED BY ONE-FOURTH OF INDIA'S POPULATION. DENGUE HAS BEEN SPORDIC BUT YELLOW FEVER IS NON-EXISTENT IN INDIA.

"DR. RAJENDRA PAL WOULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY ALL EXPERIMENTS OF GCMU ARE CARRIED OUT AROUND THE INDIAN CAPITAL-WHICH IS NOT ENDEMIC FOR MALARIA OR FILARIASIS-INSTEAD OF IN REAL ENDEMIC AREAS IN THE COUNTRY.

"UNTIL NOW GCMU HAD BEEN COLLECTING DATA ON ECOLOGY, BEHAVIOUR AND DISPERSAL PATTERN OF MOSQUITOS IN SOUTH DELHI AND IN FARIDABAD, A SPRAWLING INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX NEAR THE CAPITAL.

"SOME EXPERTS FEAR THESE DATA CAN HELP SOME INIMICAL PERSONS WHO MIGHT WANT TO EMPLOY MOSQUITOS FOR EFFECTIVE TRANSMISSION OF VERUSES AND GERMS -KNOWN AND UNKNOWN.

"IN THIS RESPECT AEDES AEGYPTI COULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL AS GERM CARRIERS BECAUSE ITS EGGS CAN BE DRIED, PUT ON A PIECE OF PAPER IN AN ENVELOPE AND MAILED TO ANY PART OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY CAN HATCH. EGGS OF OTHER MOSQUITO SPECIES CAN NOT BE DRIED.

"AS PART OF EXPERIMENTS, GCMU HAS MAPPED IN MICROSCOPIC DETAIL THE ENTIRE AREA AROUND DELHI, FARIDABAD AND SONEPAT. THESE MAPS CONTAIN THE LOCATION OF EVERY WELL, POND, WATER MAINS, SEWERS, RESIDENTIAL PLOTS AND THE LIKE.

"IN POPULATION DENSITY AND LAYOUT, SONEPAT RESEMBLES OLD DELHI.

"THE SONEPAT EXPERIMENT EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN FEBRUARY 1975 COULD ALSO PROVIDE AN ANSWER TO THE RIDDLE PUZZLING FOREIGNERS. WHY IS THERE NO YELLOW FEVER IN INDIA WHEN THE CARRIER MOSQUITOS (AEDES AEGYPTI) ARE FOUND IN PLENTY. HOW IS IT THAT YELLOW FEVER VIRUS DOES NOT GET ESTABLISHED IN INDIA DESPITE ITS HUGE POPULATION OF MONKEYS THAT ARE EXCELLENT RESERVOIRS FOR THE VIRUS?

"YELLOW FEVER IS BELIEVED TO BE ABSENT IN INDIA BECAUSE OF THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 10039 02 OF 02 291540Z

POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER VIRUS THAT MAY GIVE 'CROSS

PROTECTION' AGAINST THE YELLOW FEVER VIRUS, EXPERTS ASK IF, GENETIC MOSQUITO EXPERIMENTS WOULD AFFECT OR REMOVE THIS NATURAL CROSS PROTECTION. IF IT DOES, YELLOW FEVER WOULD STRIKE INDIA.

"INDIANS KNOW NOT: INDIAN SCIENTISTS WORKING IN GCMU PRIVATELY SAY THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE UNIT BECAUSE ALL DECISIONS ARE TAKEN IN CLOSED MEETINGS. THE UNIT'S PRESENT AND THE FOUR PREVIOUS PROJECT LEADERS HAVE BEEN U.S. GOVERNMENT SCIENTISTS.

"DR. A D MANI, FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES AND EX-CHIEF OF WHO REGIONAL OFFICE HERE, RECENTLY SAID AT THE INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE THAT ONE NEED NOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT EXPERIMENT GCMU DID BECAUSE THE MONEY FOR THE PROJECTS CAME FROM THE U.S. AND NOT FROM THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

"THE WHO, ALONG WITH THE UNION HEALTH MINISTRY, HAS ALSO BEEN CARRYING OUT SOME MOSQUITO CONTROL EXPERIMENTS IN JODHPUR USING WHAT IT CALLS ULTRA LOW VOLUME TECHNIQUE (ULV) FOR SPRAYING INSECTICIDES.

"IN THIS TECHNIQUE, A SMALL DOSE OF INSECTICIDES IS CONVERTED INTO MILLIONS OF DROPLETS AND DISPERSED AT A REMARKABLE SPEED IN AN INVISIBLE FORM BY SPECIAL SPRARY MACHINES THAT CAN BE MOUNTED ON A TRUCK OR AIRCRAFT.

"SOME EXPERTS SAY THIS TECHNIQUE IS IDENTICAL TO THE TECHNIQUE OF DISPERSING DISEASE CAUSING GERMS. AN OFFICIAL OF THE NATIONAL MALARIA ERADICATION PROGRAMME SAID THE ULV EXPERIMENT IS SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL IN ATLANTA.

"ACCORDING TO A WHO PRESS RELEASE, THE ULV EXPERIMENT WAS FIRST TRIED IN THAILAND. IT WAS THEN ABANDONED FOR UNKNOWN REASONS AND 18 MONTHS AGO THE EXPERIMENT WAS SHIFTED TO JODHPUR AREA (NOT FAR FROM THE SITE OF INDIA'S UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSION).

"IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THE WHO USED AIRCRAFT, OR WHY IT CHOSE THIS LOW PRIORITY AREA FOR THIS EXPERIMENT, OR WHY THE PROJECT IS NOW, BEING WOUND UP FROM JODHPUR AND SHIFTED TO BANGALORE."MOYNIHAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, CHEMICAL WARFARE, PRESS COMMENTS, MOSQUITOES, PESTS OF ANIMALS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE10039
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740205-0603
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974079/aaaaahut.tel
Line Count: 310
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI'S 10030
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 NOV 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <23 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN PRESS ARTICLES ON WHO BIOGENETIC MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT AND MIGRATORY BIRD PROJECT
TAGS: TBIO, IN
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005